

In SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING BILLS:
RAISED HB 6566 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPASSIONATE USE OF MARIJUANA
SB 1015 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is James Bruce Kimball Jr., I write this testimony because I am a firm believer and candidate for using marijuana as an alternative medication for those who would benefit. In some cases it can be a substitute for prescription drugs, such as those dealing with nausea and emotional distress and or anxiety. Being a two time cancer survivor has really opened my mind and eyes to a world anew. I see everything differently. Now I feel the responsibility to be a part of what needs to be fixed, in our country as a whole and our state. Marijuana helped me through my treatments and still helps me through Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, all I can really do is be honest and contribute my experiences with alternatives to some medicines and treatments that were offered.

I am fully supportive of many alternative medications and integrative therapies. During my second treatments battling Rhabdomyosarcoma I used marijuana for a number of things—Nausea, appetite, anxiety, sleep, and muscle/joint pains. Although I had to acquire it illegally, I used it daily when I was not in the hospital. Being denied something you know will help you as an individual hits very deep. I had to worry about being arrested because I illegally and regularly used marijuana to help with side affects from chemotherapy. The treatments literally killed my body inside and out, mentally and physically. It is not right to put a patient in that kind of situation. Not only would the guilty get fined but arrested as well. Imagine if a patient was arrested and brought to a filthy germ filled jail cell. The immune system is temporarily shut down during chemotherapy so the medicine can break down and dissolve cancer cells. A patient being anywhere is at risk of infection. As a cancer survivor I know how it feels to be worried about being arrested for what I see as my medicine. It doesn't seem fair for any kind of patient to be put in that position. It simply does not make sense.

I was given painkillers and anxiety medications throughout the entire process. I was given painkillers after each surgery and about 100, 1 milligram tablets of Lorazepam every three weeks. I was almost immediately addicted to anxiety pills. A few months into treatment I brought up marijuana for the second time to a therapist whom I would see during my stay in the hospital. The doctors permitted occasional use of Marinol, which is a synthetic THC pill. He almost prescribed it to me but never got around to it. I would have denied it anyway because its yet another genetically enhanced pill that will ultimately have negative side affects.

It was very hard to get good rest, in the hospital and at home. Having a good sleep cycle is very important for a bodies well being. I lost sleep for many reasons, but marijuana helped when I was home. My appetite was pretty much entirely gone but it helped with that as well. Because I didn't feel as sick from everything I was in better spirits. With the use of marijuana the end results gave me better sleep, less nausea, weight gain, fewer nightmares, and provided a huge boost of morale. Thus, Marijuana provided a release from the highly addictive pain medications often provided to cancer patients, medications which are as detrimental to the mind and body as the cancer it self.

Thank you,

James Bruce Kimball Jr.
Greenwich, CT